

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling a network node to process a
2 plurality of packet flows, the method comprising:
3 receiving packets corresponding to a flow;
4 determining if the packets in the flow correspond to a communications
5 protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;
6 when said flow is determined to include packets corresponding to a
7 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling:
8 determining if the ~~first~~ flow performs in a manner
9 indicating that the flow is indicative of responsive to congestion
10 signaling;
11 forwarding at least some received packets
12 corresponding to the ~~first~~ flow when it is determined that the ~~first~~ flow
13 performs in a manner indicating that it is responsive to congestion
14 signaling; and
15 blocking the packets from said the flow when said ~~first~~
16 the flow is determined to perform in a manner indicating that it is non-
17 responsive to congestion signaling.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the
2 packets in said flow correspond to a communications protocol which is responsive to
3 congestion signaling includes:
4 checking said flow to determine if it uses the Transmission Control
5 Protocol (TCP).

1 Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the flow performs
2 in a manner indicative of responsive to congestion signaling includes:
3 monitoring a flow rate of said flow to determine if the monitored flow
4 rate decreases in response to congestion signaling.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the monitored flow rate is a
2 packet arrival rate at said network node.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said congestion signaling
2 includes dropped packet information.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forwarding at least
2 some received packets includes:
3 determining if said flow rate of said flow exceeds a baseline flow rate;
4 and
5 performing a forced flow rate reduction operation in response to
6 determining that said flow rate of said flow exceeds said baseline flow rate.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein said step of performing a forced
2 flow rate reduction operation includes:
3 dropping at least some received packets from said flow thereby
4 resulting in fewer forwarded packets than received packets.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:~~
2 A method of controlling a network node to process a plurality of packet flows, the
3 method comprising:
4 receiving packets corresponding to a flow;
5 determining if the packets in the flow correspond to a communications
6 protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;
7 when said flow is determined to include packets corresponding to a
8 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;
9 determining if the flow performs in a manner indicating
10 that the flow is responsive to congestion signaling;

11 forwarding at least some received packets
12 corresponding to the flow when it is determined that the flow performs
13 in a manner indicating that the flow is responsive to congestion
14 signaling; and
15 blocking the packets from the flow when the flow is
16 determined to perform in a manner indicating that it is non-responsive
17 to congestion signaling; and
18 generating a flow rate baseline for a class of flows received by said
19 node, the step of generating a flow rate baseline including:
20 i) monitoring a plurality of flow rates, each one of the
21 plurality of flow rates being for one of a plurality of flows in said
22 class, received by said node over a period of time; and
23 ii) processing said monitored flow rates to generate a
24 composite flow rate for a flow in said class.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said composite flow rate is an
2 average flow rate.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said average flow
2 rate is a smoothed average flow rate.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving packets corresponding to an additional flow;
3 determining if the packets in the additional flow correspond to a
4 communications protocol which is responsive to congestion signaling;
5 when said additional flow is determined to include packets
6 corresponding to a communications protocol which is non-responsive to congestion
7 signaling;
8 forwarding at least some received packets in said additional flow.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of forwarding at least
2 some received packets in said additional flow includes:
3 determining if a flow rate of said additional flow exceeds an additional
4 baseline flow rate; and
5 performing a forced flow rate reduction operation in response to
6 determining that said flow rate of said additional flow exceeds said additional
7 baseline flow rate.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said step of performing a
2 forced flow rate reduction operation includes:
3 dropping at least some received packets from said additional flow
4 thereby resulting in fewer forwarded packets in said additional flow than received
5 packets.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of determining if the
2 packets in the additional flow correspond to a communications protocol which is
3 responsive to congestion signaling includes the step of:
4 determining whether said additional flow includes packets which are
5 to be delivered using best effort techniques.

Claims 15-21 (canceled)